

Bay County Extension Council

Minutes January 21, 2009

Date: January 21, 2009

Time: 5:19 p.m.

Place: MSU Extension Bay County, Third Floor, Large Conference Room

Member(s) Present:

Mary Jo Brandt

George Heron

Bill Palmer

Philip Englehardt

Marybeth Laisure

Doug Rise

Patti Dubay

Sara Marks

Member(s) Excused:

Joyce Gavord

Lyle LeCronier

Barb Wishowski

Others Present:

Ann Arnold, FCS Extension Educator

Brian Daley, ANR Extension Educator

Judy Delestowicz, Administrative Assistant

Margaret LaShore, SNAP-Ed Educator, Reporting & Technology

Jan Rise, Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinator

Jodi Schulz, 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator

Howard Wetters, County Extension Director

INFORMATION PRESENTED AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Doug Rise, chair, called the meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. The minutes of the November 19, 2008, meeting were approved. There were no new items added to the agenda.

Old Business:

Welcome to Patti Dubay, 4-H Advisory Council president for 2008-2009 program year.

Mr. Wetters asked for Extension Council to move the previously planned 'plan of work' dinner and presentation to the March 18 Extension Council meeting. After some discussion on the reasons why this change was needed, it was agreed to update the 2009 MSU Extension - Bay County Program Presentation Schedule to accommodate the change. The location of the March 18 meeting was yet to be determined. A revised presentation schedule would be sent with next meeting mailing.

It was moved, supported, and unanimously approved to elect the entire slate of nominated officers for 2009: Doug Rise, chair; Marybeth Laisure, vice chair; Philip Engelhardt, secretary.

New Business:

Mr. George Heron asked how Extension Council will address and provide input on the upcoming plan of work meeting. There was discussion why this meeting can help MSU Extension - Bay County better understand if local programming efforts fit the community's needs, while staying within the guidelines and programming goals of MSU and MSU Extension. Mr. Wetters will send out review literature prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Wetters reported under grants and staffing that Brian Daley is still working toward the completion of his masters degree.

The hiring of the new full-time Extension educator was put on hold due to the MSU/MSU Extension hiring freeze. Since the funding comes from Bay Arenac ISD under a PIE (Parent Involvement and Education) grant and not MSU or MSU Extension dollars, Mr. Wetters is confident that the position can be filled soon.

A new MSU Extension central region director has been hired. Mr. Dave Ivan replaces retiring regional director David Guikema. Mr. Ivan was the county Extension director in Clinton County, and held several MSU Extension state level positions. Mr. Ivan started the first of the year, while Mr. Guikema retires in February.

At this time the Better Kid Care grant's status has yet to be determined. Therefore, the program associate position remains at a temporary status. When the grant comes through, MSU Extension - Bay County will be able to post for a full time position. Ms. Susan Kukla is currently filling the temporary BKC program associate position.

Mr. Wetters stated that the 2009 Bay County budget for MSU Extension looks good so far. As far as state funding for MSU Extension as a whole, it is unclear what cuts will come due to Michigan's current budget deficits. Mr. Wetters is hoping with a new federal administration that with any state recisions, things might not be so bad.

Ms. Ann Arnold, Extension educator, indicated that Better Kid Care program delivery is very busy, with many new clients partaking in day care provider training. She contributes the rise in interest is due to local job loss and the state of the economy. Ms. Arnold reiterates Mr. Wetters comments about the state of the BKC grant, as MSU Extension is still waiting to hear what share they will be awarded between MSU Extension and 4C's.

Ms. Arnold continues to work with the Department of Human Services under the Strong Families, Safe Children grant to provide court-mandated parenting classes to its clients. Some discussion centered around a future presentation to Extension

Council on the breast-feeding friendly diaper bag project, which is going well.

The SNAP-Ed program staff will be attending a health fair in Pinconning this month. SNAP, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is what the newest name for the nutrition education grant which MSU Extension is working with the United States Department of Agriculture. It was formerly known as Family Nutrition Program (FNP) and more recently known as Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE).

Ms. Margaret LaShore offered that Bay County is one of 14 counties that will be participating in a USDA cost benefit analysis grant to learn the health and nutrition status of local families. It will be delivered during regular SNAP-Ed programming.

The Healthy Toddler research project continues to go well. Ms. Arnold and team have already met 75 percent of the project's benchmark participation.

Ms. Jodi Schulz gave an update on 4-H events. Winter Workshop held this month had 40 participants, double from last year. All went well at the event, despite the very cold Canteen building! The annual 4-H Livestock Association spaghetti dinner fund raiser is planned for February 19. Proceeds go toward livestock barn improvements. February is also the month for both annual 4-H banquets to honor youth and leaders. Another rabbit show is planned for April 18. This year's event is going to be at the Pinconning Boys and Girls Club. The Shaggy Spring Fling open horse show is also scheduled for April.

As for new programs, 4-H staff began discussions with Bay County about the upcoming Equifoam flooring material that will be going into the horse barn. The first volunteer work event is planned in February. A lot of work will be required to get the flooring installed before fair. Also, Ms. Schulz applied to campus for a 4-H Participation Fees grant, which will be used for horse helmet educational kits. These kits will be distributed to each of the four horse clubs in Bay County. The kit will aid leaders and youth in determining correct helmet fit and promote safety.

Mr. Brian Daley gave a report on the ANR pesticide update, which was held January 19. Three RUP (restricted use pesticide) credits were available for those who attended this update. Mr. Daley is also developing a new curriculum presentation for the two upcoming pesticide applicator reviews in February and March, due to the fact that the core manual was updated in 2008. Mr. Wetters invited Council members to attend an agriculture luncheon sponsored by the Michigan Agribusiness Association on February 27 at Lumber Barron's restaurant. Attending will be farmers, grain handlers, equipment dealers, and other agribusinesses. Council's support of agribusiness is welcomed.

Ms. Jan Rise, Master Gardener volunteer program coordinator, reported that the

Master Gardener class that was being offered January 21 had to be cancelled due to low enrollment. There has been at least one class session held every year since 2002, except one other class that had to be cancelled for the same reason. A new slate of officers was elected by the Bay Area Master Gardener Association. Marybeth Laisure is president for 2009. New projects and even old projects, like the I-75 rest stop, are planned and look very exciting. A meeting is planned in February for all Master Gardener's to attend, similar to the fun fair planned last year. A proclamation by the City of Bay City was bestowed on the BAMGA and the Bay City Garden Club for their cooperative work on the veterans and Vietnam memorials in the city's eastside Veterans Park. Kudos to all Master Gardeners and garden club members who worked these project sites. Also, Dennis Curtis, last year's BAMGA president, was nominated for the City of Bay City's Dick Hardy Community Improvement Award.

Mr. Wetters stated that the Communities for a Lifetime (C4L) county-wide designation has been secured. Bay County is the first recipient of a county-wide designation. The Senior Task Force will begin presentations to local community and municipalities, which will aid them in setting goals relative to community and economic development planning. 'Place making' as a concept was discussed. Making a 'place' that attractive to move to is for seniors over other traditional factors like tax base, schools, hospitals, etc. Mr. Wetters offered a presentation on this as part of the March 18 meeting.

The next meeting will be held on March 18. Mr. Rise adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN

- It was moved, supported, and carried to approve the November 19, 2008, meeting minutes.
- It was moved, supported, and unanimously carried to elect the 2009 officers: Doug Rise, chair; Marybeth Laisure, vice chair; Philip Engelhardt, secretary.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Prepared by J. Delestowicz